

Washington, DC- Congressman Steve King and Senators Chuck Grassley and Tom Harkin released the following statements today after the U.S. Department of Defense announced that the Navy named five new ships, including a new littoral combat ship after Sioux City, Iowa. Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus announced that the USS Sioux City was named "after a Midwestern city from America's heartland, to honor the patriotic, hard-working citizens of Sioux City, Iowa for their support of and contributions to the military."

"It is a privilege to have the Navy recognize Sioux City by naming a ship in its newest fleet after an Iowa city. This is a fitting tribute to Sioux City, its residents and the long history of supporting our nation's military. The USS Sioux City will aid in the Navy's effort to continue to defend and protect America around the world," said King.

"This is a wonderful tribute to the people of Sioux City and the historical commitment of all those in Siouxland to the defense and security of the United States. Littoral combat ships are described as a major part of the future of the Navy, so it's fitting to name one for a city that is on the move and forward looking," said Grassley.

"This is an honor for Iowa and for the hardworking men and women of Sioux City," said Harkin. "The Littoral Combat Ship represents the next generation of ships – it is reliable, yet still agile and can operate in various waters. The people of Sioux City should be honored, as I am as an Iowan, for the Navy's recognition. I commend the Navy and Secretary Mabus for honoring our state in this way," said Harkin.

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